Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a communication system having a first predefined maximum system transmission power level for in-band transmissions, a method ~~in a first communication device~~ comprising:

determining that communication performance between a first communication device and a second communication device exceeds a performance threshold;

based on the determination, assigning a first band-edge channel for communication between the first communication device and the second communication device; and

the first communication device transmitting a first signal for reception by the second device via the first band-edge channel, the first signal transmitted at a reduced power level that is below the first predefined maximum system transmission power level.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the first communication device receiving a second signal transmitted by the second communication device, the second signal transmitted at or below the reduced power level.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

the first communication device receiving the second signal via the first band-edge channel.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

the first communication device receiving the second signal via a second band-edge channel.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

the first communication device transmitting an indication to the second communication device indicating a maximum transmission power level to be used by the second communication device.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a power control mechanism for assigning a temporary assigned power level for transmitting the first signal, the temporary assigned power level being less than the reduced power level.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising:

determining a minimum level of communication performance for transmitting the first signal; and

selecting, based on ~~determining~~ the minimum level of communication performance, the temporary assigned power level.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

providing a power control mechanism for assigning a temporary assigned power level for transmitting the second signal, the temporary assigned power level being less than the reduced power level.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

determining a minimum level of communication performance for transmitting the second signal; and

selecting, based on ~~determining~~ the minimum level of communication performance, the temporary assigned power level.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication performance is determined based on a metric selected from the group consisting of signal-to-noise ration (SNR), signal-to-interference-noise ration (SINR), received signal strength indication (RSSI), bit error rate (BER), and frame error rate (FER).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the communication performance is determined based on a metric selected from the group consisting of signal-to-noise ration (SNR), signal-to-interference-noise ration (SINR), received signal strength indication (RSSI), bit error rate (BER), and frame error rate (FER).

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

after transmitting the first signal, determining that interference affecting communication between the first and second communication devices is above a threshold; and

increasing the amount of power used to transmit from the first communication device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

after receiving the second signal, determining that interference affecting communication between the first and second communication devices is above a threshold; and

increasing the amount of power used to transmit from the second communication device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing the first predefined maximum system transmission power level for in-band transmissions from the first communication device to the second communication device;

providing a second predefined maximum system transmission power level for in-band transmissions from the second communication device to the first communication device; and

causing the second communication device to transmit below the second predefined maximum system transmission power level.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first communication device comprises a base station and the second communication device comprises a terminal.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first and second predefined maximum transmission power levels are equal.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first and second predefined maximum transmission power levels are unequal.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A communication device comprising:

a processor to determine that communication performance between the communication device and a second communication device exceeds a performance threshold, and to assigning a first band-edge channel for

communication between the communication device and the second communication device in response to the determination; and

a transmitter to transmit a first signal for reception by the second device via the first band-edge channel, the first signal transmitted at a reduced power level that is below a predefined maximum system transmission power level.

21. (New) The communications device of claim 20, further comprising:

a receiver to receive a second signal transmitted by the second communication device, the second signal being transmitted at or below the reduced power level by the second communications device.